

## REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 21-35 are pending in the present application. Claims 14-20 were previously canceled. Claims 1-3, 7, 11-12, 21-23, and 27 have been amended and claim 28-35 has been added herein. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-13 and 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for being indefinite. However, the claims have been amended so that any indefiniteness has been removed.

More specifically, the term "large structure" has been amended, and "main trench structure" has been changed to trench structure. This is clearly supported by the specification at paragraph [0041].

The Examiner believed that the phrase "area-selective etching" was confusing. The phase is explained in paragraph [0041] of the specification and is still in the claims. However, the meaning of the phase has been further clarified by a phase added to the last element of independent claim 21.

Applicants further submit that the claims are now clear and are not confusing. Specifically, paragraph [0041] and Figures 7A and 7B are believed to fully explain the relationship between the rectangular surface and the orientation of the crystal planes <100> and <110>.

With respect to claims 7 and 27 it is believed that it is now clear that the trench opening at the surface of the substrate can be any selective shape (e.g. rectangular or oval). However, after the trench opening at the surface is etched according to photo resist patterned by a mask (not claimed), further etching is used to etch deep into the substrate. During this further etching, the etched surface with the trench opening is protected by a protective layer. (See paragraph [0031]).

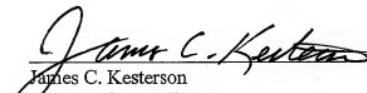
With respect to the Examiners objection to claim 9 it is respectfully submitted that in light of paragraph [0041] and Figure 7A and 7B that this claim is not confusing. Claim 11 has been reworded.

Therefore, since there are no art rejection and since it is believed that the claims are no longer indefinite and are now allowable.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. In the event that the enclosed fees are insufficient, please charge any additional fees required to keep this application pending, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

17 August 2001  
Date

  
James C. Kesterson  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 25, 882

SLATER & MATSIL, L.L.P.  
17950 Preston Rd., Suite 1000  
Dallas, Texas 75252-5793  
Tel: 972-732-1001  
Fax: 972-732-9218